

Safe Havens:

Accepting Babies With Open Arms



Having a baby can bring great joy, excitement and love into a parent's life. But raising a child is a demanding responsibility that for some parents can be stressful and difficult.

If for whatever reason you feel you cannot parent your child, there are safe places where you can leave your baby. Safe places that will take your baby with open arms, no questions asked. Places that will make sure your baby receives the care and protection he or she deserves.

A state law in South Dakota allows you to voluntarily leave your baby with a hospital or child placement agency if your child is less than 60 days old. Leaving your baby with one of these places is not a crime *as long as your child has not been harmed*.

You can leave your baby with:

- hospitals or clinics
- law enforcement officers
- licensed child placement agencies
- the Department of Social Services
- emergency medical technicians
- firefighters

You may be asked for pertinent medical information relating to your baby's medical history. But, you will not be required to provide any information, including your name or the other parent's name.

Your Parental Rights Will Be Terminated

If you don't *express your intent* to return for your baby, your parental rights to your child will be terminated after 14 days. Your baby will then become a ward of the state or the licensed child placement agency.

The place where you leave your baby must notify the Department of Social Services (DSS) that it has your child. DSS cannot attempt to identify, contact or investigate you unless it appears your child has been harmed. DSS or the child placement agency will take custody and care for your baby.

Your baby's mother or father has a right to file for custody after you have given him or her up. To gain custody, the other parent has 30 days to prove he or she is the parent of your baby and that he or she did not consent to giving up the child's custody.

If the other parent doesn't come forward and 60 days have passed, a circuit court hearing will be held to terminate your parental rights. *This means you will no longer have any rights to your baby.*

* For more information on this law, see SDCL 25-5A-27 through 25-5A-35. If applicable, the Indian Child Welfare Act must be followed.



Here are some places you can leave your baby.

Bethany Christian Services:
(343-7196) 2525 W. Main St. #309, Rapid City, SD 57702-2564

Bethany Christian Services:
(336-6999) 625 S. Minnesota, Suite 103, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Catholic Family Services: (988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867) 523 N. Duluth, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714

Catholic Social Services: (348-6086) 918 5th St., Rapid City, SD 57701-3798

LDS Family Services: (342-3500) 2525 W. Main St., Suite 310, Rapid City, SD 57702-2443

Lutheran Social Services: (336-3347) 600 W. 12th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105-6048

Lutheran Social Services: (348-0477) 2920 Sheridan Lake Road, Rapid City, SD 57701

New Horizons Adoption Agency, Inc.:
(332-0310) 519 W. 10th St. #103, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-3619

You can leave your baby at any Social Services office.

Aberdeen: (626-2388) 422 S. Washington,
PO Box 1300, 57402-1300

Belle Fourche: (892-2731) 609 5th Ave.,
57717-1405

Brookings: (688-4334) 1310 Main Ave. S.,
Suite 101, 57006-3893

Chamberlain: (734-4501) 810 N. Main,
PO Box 430, 57325-0430

Custer: (673-4347) 1164 Mt. Rushmore
Rd. #3, 57730-2133

Deadwood: (578-2402) 20 Cliff St., PO
Box 607, 57732-0607

Eagle Butte: (964-4484) 1302 N. Willow,
PO Box 530, 57625-0530

Hot Springs: (745-5100) 2500 Minnekahta
Ave., Building 1, PO Box 729, 57747-0729

Huron: (353-7100) 110 3rd St. SW, Suite
200, PO Box 1408, 57350-1408

Lake Andes: (487-7607) 3rd & Lake, PO
Box 190, 57356-0190

Martin: (685-6521) 404 3rd Ave., PO Box
250, 57551-0250

Mission: (856-4489) 671 N. Marge Lane,
PO Box 818, 57555-0818

Mitchell: (995-8000) 116 E. 11th Ave.,
57301-1432

Mobridge: (845-2922) 920 6th St. W., PO
Box 160, 57601-0160

Pierre: (773-3521) 912 E. Sioux, 57501-
5070

Pine Ridge: (867-2236) Planning Center
Building, PO Box 279, 57770-0279

Rapid City: (394-2434) 510 N. Cambell,
PO Box 2440, 57709-2440

Sioux Falls: (367-5460) 811 E. 10th St.,
Department 3, 57103-1650

Sturgis: (347-2559) 2200 W. Main St.,
57785-1338

Vermillion: (677-6800) 114 Market St., PO
Box 516, 57069-0516

Watertown: (882-5050) 2001 9th Ave. SW,
Suite 300, PO Box 670, 57201-0670

Winner: (842-0400) 649 W. 2nd St., PO
Box 31, 57580-0031

Yankton: (668-3030) 3113 Spruce St.,
Suite 200, 57078-5320

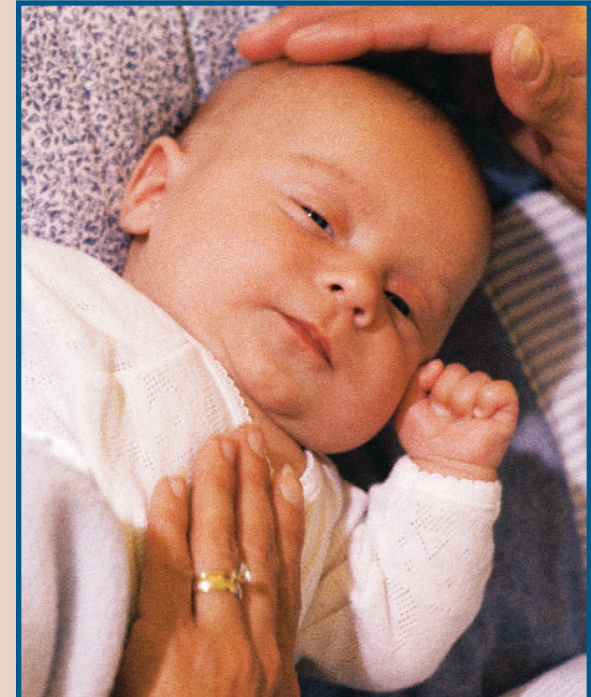


DSS Nondiscrimination Policy:

It is the policy of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make sure that applications for program benefits and services are made available to everyone and that program benefits are granted to all who meet eligibility standards. DSS staff, programs and policies must not discriminate against clients or applicants for services because of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion and national origin. DSS must also provide fair and equal access to all of its programs and services for people with disabilities; this includes both physical access to buildings and access to programs and services. To file a complaint of discrimination write: PMB0141-1, DSS Human Resource Manager, 500 East Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-5070 or call: (605) 773-6941. If you have a question regarding program services, please contact your nearest DSS office.

5,000 copies of this document were printed by the Department of Social Services at a cost of 12 cents per copy. DSS/CPS/5M/1004

Do you feel you cannot care for your baby?



Safe Havens: Accepting Babies With Open Arms